[](http://tiger.towson.edu/~pwausc1/hurling1.jpg)

[](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/28/Irish_pub_Krakow.JPG)

[](http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=St.+Patricks+day+in+ireland&view=detail&id=7CE4D8DD33C732FC07C6F99CF65D9EF602808213&first=0&FORM=IDFRIR)

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Pubs remain the pillars of Irish social life- places to chat, listen, learn, gossip, and, of course, enjoy a sing-along.

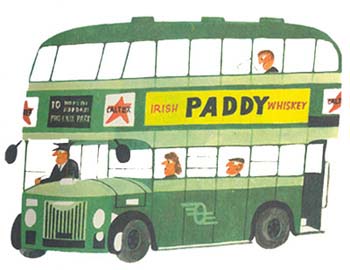
The tradition of the fleadh is alive and well in Ireland all year long. Music festivals are very popular including: Galway’s Festival of Popular Irish Music, Kinvara’s Cuckoo Fleadh, and the World Irish Dancing Championships.

The national holiday in the Republic of Ireland is Saint Patrick’s Day, occurring on March 17th. The day is celebrated with parades and festivals throughout the country, but especially in Dublin.

The potato is the staple of the Irish diet. Other popular foods include: grains (especially oats), dairy products, and Irish stew. A typical Irish dinner consists of cabbage, potatoes(cooked whole), and meat.

Only about 5% of the people in Ireland can speak Gaelic. English is the second official language of the country.

Roman Catholicism is the most practiced religion in Ireland.

[](http://irishmolina.com/yahoo_site_admin/assets/images/ireland_bus.208163134_std.jpg)

MAJOR CITIES

These well-known cities in Ireland are worth visitng:

-Dublin

-Belfast

-Cork

-Derry

-Limerick

-Galway

-Lisburn

-Waterford

-Newry

-Armagh

TRANSPORTATION

All urban centers and towns are now interconnected by bus and rail, and you should not have trouble crisscrossing the country in any direction. If you can, thought, opt for a car. It is more useful when you want to travel down byways and country lanes to places a train cannot get to.

# DAILY LIFE

Many Irish enjoy reading newspapers, watching sports games, listening to the radio, watching television, and socializing at the pubs.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITES

If you like sports then try to catch a football or hurling game in Ireland. These are the most popular sports, but only just ahead of rugby, soccer, horse racing, and cricket.

Walk and around and admire Ireland’s luscious green landscape. Watch out for the herds of sheep that may cross your path!

If you’re adventurous, try horseback riding, hiking, boating, bird watching, or cycling around the island.